

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached 3 sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3, 8 and 9.

The first sheet including Fig. 3 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3. Specifically, the reference character D4 is changed to D3, and the reference character D3 is changed to D4.

The second sheet including Figs. 7 and 8 replaces the original sheet including Figs. 7 and 8. Specifically, Figure 8 is labeled "Background Art."

The third sheet including Fig. 9 replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9. Specifically, Figure 9 is labeled "Background Art."

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-14 and 17-21 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected; the specification was objected to; Claims 5-8, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 19 were objected to; Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20 and 21 were indicated as allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20 and 21 are allowed.

In response to the objection to the drawings, Figures 8 and 9 are labeled “Background Art,” respectively in light of the comments noted in the Office Action. Replacement drawings are included. Further, with regard to the objection to the reference characters not mentioned in the description, i.e. 3, C1, VGP, VGN, Applicants have amended the specification to include those reference characters without introducing new matter. Support for these amendments to the specification is found in Applicants’ original disclosure including the original specification at page 2, lines 3-11, page 4, lines 14-18, the original drawings including Figures 3 and 9, and the original claims, for example. In addition, Figure 3 is amended to be consistent with Figure 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objection thereto.

The specification was objected to because of several informalities. Applicants note with appreciation the time taken by the Examiner to identify specific areas needing revisions. Applicants have amended the specification in light of the comments noted in the Office Action, and for other clarifications without introducing new matter.

In response to the Examiner's inquiry regarding the paragraph at page 8, line 36 to page 9, line 7, Applicants respectfully submit that both the PMOS transistor P1 and the NMOS transistor N1 are turned off, and the amendments to the above-noted paragraph are believed to address the Examiner's inquiry. For example, as described at page 8, lines 30-35, when the power supply voltage is not supplied, the output of the NAND gate G1 becomes substantially equal to the cathode voltage of the diode D1. Thus, the NMOS transistor N1 is turned off. Then, when a voltage higher than the power supply voltage is supplied to the first terminal I/O or the second terminal O/I, because the control signal EN is in high level, the output of the NAND gate G1, that is, the gate of the PMOS transistor P1 becomes high. Thus, the PMOS transistor P1 turns off. Therefore, both the NMOS transistor N1 and the PMOS transistor P1 are turned off.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the objection thereto.

Claims 5-8, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 19 were objected to because of several informalities. Applicants have amended Claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 19 in light of the comments noted in the Office Action, including correction of the cited informalities, and respectfully request reconsideration of the objection thereto.

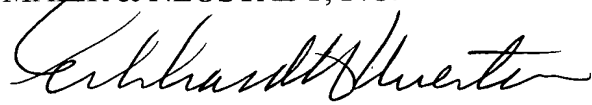
Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 17-19 in light of the comments noted in the Office Action, and respectfully submit that the amendments to Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 17-19 enclosed herein overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated.

Finally, Applicants have amended other claims for other clarifications. No new matter is added.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowed claims, the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and this present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK/GS:mda

I:\ATTY\GS\24SI\241976\AME_FILED.DOC